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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/025,630	12/26/2001	Shigeru Suzuki	P21540	4459

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EXAMINER

ELLINGTON, ALANDRA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2855

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/025,630

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Alandra N Ellington

Art Unit

2855

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed on 1/21/03.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-16 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 21 January 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: electrode member 42 (pg. 18 line 7). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cowman et al (6,183,685 B1).

A. With respect to Claim 1, Cowman et al discloses a pressure sensitive sensor for detecting pressure by electrical conduction caused by pressing into contact with each other a first electrode member and a second electrode member provided in a spaced arrangement in an unpressed state (col. 1 lines 55-60, col. 2 lines 1-2, col. 5 lines 65-67, col. 6 lines 1-7,

col. 11 lines 55-57 {Figs. 1 and 2}), said pressure sensitive sensor comprising:

An insulative member 2 provided between said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode member 3 (col. 5 lines 65-67 {Figs. 1 and 2}), said insulative member 2 including an insulating material that allows electrical contact between said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode member 3 through a gap portion in its mesh when pressed, and insulates said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode member 3 when not pressed (col. 1 lines 55-67, col. 2 lines 12, 17-24 {Figs. 1 and 2}).

- B. With respect to Claim 2, Cowman et al discloses the pressure sensitive sensor according to claim 1, wherein said insulative member 2 includes a net braid member provided between said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode member 3 ({Figs. 1 and 2}), said net braid member allowing electrical contact between said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode member 3 through a gap portion in its mesh when pressed, and insulating said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode 3 when not pressed (col. 1 lines 55-67, col. 2 lines 12, 17-24, col. 5 lines 65-67 {Figs. 1 and 2}).
- C. With respect to Claim 17, Cowman et al discloses a method of making a pressure sensitive sensor for detecting pressure by electrical conduction caused by pressing into contact with each other a first electrode member

and a second electrode member provided in a spaced arrangement in an unpressed state (col. 1 lines 55-60, col. 2 lines 1-2, col. 5 lines 65-67, col. 6 lines 1-7, col. 11 lines 55-57 {Figs. 1 and 2}), said method comprising: Providing an insulative member 2 between said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode member 3, said insulative member 2 including an insulating material that allows electrical contact between said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode member 3 when pressed, and insulates said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode 3 when not pressed (col. 1 lines 55-67, col. 2 lines 12, 17-24 {Figs. 1 and 2}).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cowman et al (6,183,685 B1).

A. With respect to Claim 3, Cowman et al discloses the claimed invention except for a net braid member formed by knitting a plurality of yarn strands. However, Cowman et al teaches a net braid member formed by deposition of powder suspension and subsequent heat treatment (col. 2

lines 29-36 {Figs. 1 and 2}). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cowman et al to include a net braid member formed by knitting a plurality of yarn strands for the purpose of providing a dense continuum of low porosity ceramic material (col. 2 lines 29-36). *MPEP 2144.07*.

- B. With respect to Claim 18, Cowman et al discloses a method of making a pressure sensitive sensor wherein said insulative member 2 includes a net braid member provided between said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode member 3 ({Figs. 1 and 2}), said net braid member allowing electrical contact between said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode member 3 through a gap portion in its mesh when pressed, and insulating said first electrode member 3 and said second electrode 3 when not pressed (col. 1 lines 55-67, col. 2 lines 12, 17-24, col. 5 lines 65-67 {Figs. 1 and 2}). However, Cowman et al specifically does not teach a net braid member formed by knitting a plurality of yarn strands. Cowman et al discloses a net braid member formed by deposition of powder suspension and subsequent heat treatment (col. 2 lines 29-36 {Figs. 1 and 2}). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cowman et al to include a net braid member formed by knitting a plurality of yarn strands for the purpose of providing a dense continuum of low porosity ceramic material (col. 2 lines 29-36). *MPEP 2144.07*.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alandra N. Ellington whose telephone number is (703)306-4449. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on (703)305-4816. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)306-7382 for regular communications and (703)305-3839 for After Final communications.


Art Unit: 2855

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

Alandra Ellington
Art Unit 2855

aa

ane
April 2, 2003


EDWARD LEFKOWITZ
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